



METHOD FOR MONITORING TRAFFIC STATE FOR A TRAFFIC NETWORK WITH
EFFECTIVE BOTTLENECKS

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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APR 05 2004

GROUP 3600

[0001] This application claims the priority of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP00/08329, filed 26 August 2000 and German Patent Document 199 44 075.1, filed 14 September 1999, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

[0002] The invention is related to a method for monitoring and forecasting traffic conditions in a traffic network (particularly a road network) with effective bottlenecks. As used herein, the phrase "effective bottlenecks" is to be understood to include both bottlenecks in the actual sense, (a reduction in the number of usable lanes), and bottlenecks in the broader sense, such as are caused, for example, by one or more incoming feeder lanes, a bend, a grade, a downgrade, a division of a lane into two or more lanes, one or more exits or a bottleneck moving slowly (by comparison with the average vehicle speed in free traffic), for example owing to a vehicle which is being driven slowly.

[0003] Various methods for monitoring and forecasting traffic conditions of this generic type are known, and are of particular interest also for diverse telematics applications